Daily Report

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Haiti

Aristide Claims 1,000 Killed Since Coup

PA1210225791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2056 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Santo Domingo, 12 Oct (EFE)—Deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said today that the coupist soldiers who ousted him from power have killed 1,000 persons since last 29 September.

Aristide called the Dominican station Radio Enriquillo from Caracas and made these statements in Spanish. He said: "We are sure that over 1,000 have been killed. The wounded have not even been counted."

The deposed president stressed that he hopes the OAS embargo against the de facto regime of his country will be successful so that the Haitian people "will be freed from those criminals."

Aristide said: "We need the support of all our brothers and sisters so that wherever there is a voice, there will be a voice saying yes to the embargo and no to any type of trafficking to help the coupists."

Aristide affirmed that he is willing to grant amnesty to the Haitian Army. As for General Raoul Cedras, the military leader who ousted him, Aristide said: "Cedras represents death in Haiti for many people. He is killing people and will continue to kill. The sooner he leaves Haiti, the better."

He said that Judge Joseph Nerette "makes no sense, just like the coupists." He said the appointment of Nerette as temporary president is for the military to hide behind, but they will always continue to impose a hidden military dictatorship.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide did not link the Dominican people to the coup d'etat that ousted him, but he reiterated that the coup was financed by the Tonton Macoutes who are in asylum in the Dominican Republic. He added that these individuals are "selling drugs. They are people who use the money from drug trafficking to finance the coupists."

The Dominican Government rejected Aristide's statements to the effect that the Duvalierists in asylum at the Dominican Republic had financed the coup d'etat against him. Former Generals William Regala and Henri Namphy, as well as former city mayor Frank Roman, are among the Haitians in asylum in the Dominican Republic.

Provisional President Unable To Form Government

PA1210003391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1958 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 Oct. (NOTIMEX)—The Haitian capital started the day more actively after nearly two weeks of total paralysis. Banks, shops, and public transportation operated more or less normally in the tense climate.

If life has resumed in the capital, the situation is not very promising for Provisional President Nerette, however. He has been unable to form a cabinet.

Strangely, many "voracious" politicians are now turning down offers of ministries.

For instance, well-informed sources have stated that Jean-Jacques Honorat, a well-known politician who opposes overthrown President Aristide and also director of the Center for Human Rights and Freedom, turned down an offer to become Nerette's prime minister.

Several well-known politicians who oppose Aristide told NOTIMEX that they were offered posts in the cabinet that Nerette is trying to form, but all of them turned down the offer.

Reasons? The majority of them think General Cedras' move is short lived and that the people's collective memory will identify them as perpetrators of the coup d'etat as well.

Another very powerful reason is the warning that countries like France and the United States have issued to big Haitian industrialists not to back the coup lest they be affected by OAS sanctions.

According to Canadian sources, OAS officials are looking for Army officers not involved in the coup with whom they can talk, but they say that this is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

These Haitian "interlocutors" would be key to sending a civilian mission accompanied by a security force.

With the exception of national radio and television stations, which are serving as propaganda mouthpieces for the military, all other media remains silent. The ban on reports that could alter public order remains in effect.

After 12 very tragic and tense days, the people are showing no sign of having lost their faith in the deposed president.

The coupist authorities have suffered the desertion of the industrial and business sectors, which do not want to jeopardize their wealth inside and outside the country.

Order Issued Appointing Prime Minister

Honorat Named

FL1110170391 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1550 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Order issued by Provisional President Joseph Nerette in Port-au-Prince on 10 October]

[Text] Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. Republic of Haiti. Mr. Joseph Nerette, president of the Republic:

In view of Articles 137 and 149 of the Constitution; in view of the National Assembly decree of 8 October 1991; considering that a prime minister can be appointed following consultation with the president of the Senate and the president of the Chamber of the Deputies, the following has been ordered:

Article 1) Citizen Jean-Jacques Honorat [leader of Haitian Center for the Defense of Public Freedoms] is appointed prime minister;

Article 2) A certified copy of this order will be handed over to to Mr. Honorat in compliance with legal formalities;

Article 3) This order will be printed, published, and put into effect.

Given at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 10 October 1991, in year 188 of independence.

[Signed] Mr. Joseph Nerette, provisional president of the Republic.

Decree Calls For Ratification

FL1410214491 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 0330 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Decree issued by Provisional President Joseph Nerette in Port-au-Prince on 10 October inviting deputies to hold an extraordinary session for ratification of the choice of Jean-Jacques Honorat as prime minister]

[Text] In view of Articles 40, 105, 107, 137, 155, and 158 of the Constitution;

In view of the National Assembly 8 October 1991 decree;

In view of the 10 October order of the provisional president of the Republic appointing citizen Jean-Jacques Honorat prime minister;

Considering that it is quite urgent that the Parliament ratify the appointment of the prime minister and sanction his declaration of general policy;

Considering that one of the branches of the legislative power, namely the Chamber of Deputies, is in recess;

Considering that consequently there is good reason for convoking the legislative corps in extraordinary session;

Article 1) The legislative corps is convoked for extraordinary session in its chamber on Monday, 14 October, at 10 AM [1400 GMT].

Article 2) This session will be devoted to the ratification of prime minister designate Jean-Jacques Honorat and the sanction of his declaration of general policy.

Article 3) This decree will be printed, published, and enforced.

Decree signed by lawyer Joseph Nerette, provisional president of the Republic.

Honorat Appears Before Senate

FL1210183891 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1117 GMT 12 Oct 91

["Report" on appearance by Jean-Jacques Honorat, Haitian prime minister-designate, before the Senate in Port-au-Prince on 11 October]

[Excerpts] On 11 October, the Senate of the Republic listened to the Haitian prime minister-designate, Jean-Jacques Honorat. The provisional president has chosen Honorat to head the government. This new government's biggest mission is to hold elections in the country within 90 days.

The senators' questions concerned several important aspects relating to national life. These included such problems as the commercial embargo, the Haitian Army, and the economic embargo that numerous countries have decided to apply against Haiti. The proposed new head of government said that Haiti has been harassed by greater countries since 1804 [year of Haiti's independence] because it took its independence; because it is a country of black people who did not want to remain slaves anymore.

Honorat added that the very countries whose independence we fought to provide are now OAS members trying to crush us [word indistinct] the metropole. On that score, we believe that the most important thing now is to negotiate with them because we are a small country. One of the most important weapons we have at hand is to show that we are not in anarchy or civil war and that on the contrary, we are a government forging democracy in respect for everyone's rights.

[Begin Honorat recording] [Words indistinct] smaller, we must be smarter. (?Being) smaller and smarter, we just have one way to cope with them. It is through negotiations. We do not have [changes thought]... We cannot count on any force to appear before them and tell them: Listen, we do not need you; or we will do this or that; and so on. We cannot say we do not need them because we are linked to one of the powers, namely the United States, for as much as 89 percent of our national commercial trade. Thus, if they speak of embargo, this means almost all the products that we use [words indistinct]. We must negotiate with them and tell them: Listen, what do you want? Then we will state our position and the foreign partners will state theirs. We will then sit down and talk to obtain our goals. Do you understand me? As we are smaller, we must be smarter. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In answering a question by Senator Rony Mondestin, Honorat asserted that the military rebellion clearly shows that the Army has demands, demands linked to the country's realities. The new government will discuss their demands with them and then try to see how some of these demands can be satisfied. [passage omitted]

The prime minister-designate said he would not engage in a witch hunt and that he has no enemies, but he would fight the systems that destroy people's lives. According to Honorat, the same structures that existed even before 1804 still prevail. He thinks an end should be put to this system. [passage omitted] [break in transmission]

Senate Approves Honorat

FL1210205291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1900 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Relayed report by correspondent Roland Cherry at the Legislative Palace in Port-au-Prince—live]

[Text] About 30 minutes ago the Senate approved the choice of Mr. Jean-Jacques Honorat as prime minister of Haiti. Thirteen out of 15 senators voted with one abstention and one against.

Right after the Senate vote, the deputies met in assembly where they asked the prime minister several questions regarding his constitutional duties.

Questions were raised about the opening of schools, which is a priority matter according to the deputies. Mr. Honorat thinks that it falls upon the minister of education to solve this problem. He also observed that October is almost over, therefore parents would not have the money to pay for school fees in October. November seems the most feasible month for the opening of school.

Regarding the participation of all political parties in the new government, Mr. Honorat is very positive that this will be the case because each political party received a nominating form to propose candidates to fill the vacant posts in the ministries. Mr. Honorat discussed many other questions regarding the Constitution.

The deputies will advise Mr. Honorat of their decision on Monday, since he is due to meet with them again. Mr. Honorat stated that he would establish a government of dialogue; there will be no witch hunts; and he has no intention of dismissing the employees at the ministries. He will choose the most competent persons. Mr. Honorat answered all the questions asked by the deputies.

We will report further details later, when Mr. Honorat will give more details on his general policy.

Honorat Before Assembly

FL1210205291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1900 GMT 12 Oct 91

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We will report further details later, when Mr. Honorat will give more details on his general policy.

Deputies To Ratify Honorat

FL1410143691 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1035 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] On 12 October, the Senate ratified the appointment of the new Haitian prime minister, Jean-Jacques Honorat. Honorat will head the provisional government.

The Chamber of Deputies, who heard Honorat on 12 October, should ratify today his appointment. This morning, the provisional president summoned the deputies.

In Port-au-Prince, adversaries of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide consider the new prime minister, who is the founder of the Haitian Center for the Defense of Public Freedom, as the man at the center of the situation. Honorat has international prestige with several American distinctions conferred on him for the defense of human rights.

Honorat Profiled

FL1210002091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Italicized words in English]

[Excerpts] Jean-Jacques Honorat, a 60-year old lawyer and agronomist, head of the Haitian Center for Public Freedom [CHADEL], one of the major human rights organizations in the country, has been appointed prime minister by provisional Haitian President Joseph

Nerette, according to a government decree. The communique also explains that this appointment was made after consultation with the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies president. This choice must next be ratified by the Parliament, as provided for by the Constitution, which states: Then the prime minister chooses his ministerial cabinet in consultation with the president. [sentence as heard] [Passage omitted] Honorat, who has been appointed prime minister, is scheduled to appear before the Legislative Chamber where he is presently holding a news conference.

A human rights official in Haiti, Honorat was born in Port-au-Prince on 1 April 1931. He studied at Petit Seminaire College Saint Martial there from 1936 to 1948, and was graduated from the Agronomy National School in 1951. He also studied at the Faculty of Law and received a license degree in law in 1957. He has occupied several government posts, including that of junior forester with the Haitian American Agricultural Development Society [SHADA] from 1951 to 1953. He was Haitian general consul in the Bahamas in 1958, and general director of tourism from 1958 to 1961. He was director and owner of the Commercial Representation Agency from 1962 to 1975, and a member of the National Committee for Cooperation With UNESCO from 1975 to 1980. Honorat was named director of the Department of Development Sciences at the Faculty of Ethnology, a branch of the Haiti State University in 1979, and served as research director at the Haitian Institute for Economic and Social Development in 1978.

Honorat, who has become prime minister, was arrested and forced to leave the country in December, 1981, after which he settled down in New York, in the United States, where he became founder and director of *International Development Consultants* from 1981 to 1982. He was founder and director of the *Haitian Center for Human Rights* in 1983, and coordinator of the *Haitian Center Council* from 1983 to 1985.

Honorat reentered Haiti in 1986. He founded and became executive director of CHADEL in 1986, and president of the board of directors of the Institute of Technology and Animation in 1990. He is a member of several international associations, such as *the American Academy of Independence, the Caribbean Studies Association*, the Latin American Human Rights Association, Haitian Lawyers Association, and the European Association of Centers for Codes of Medical Ethics.

To conclude the resume of Mr. Honorat, who today has been appointed prime minister, we will tell you that he speaks several languages, including Creole, French, English, and Spanish. He understands and reads German and Portuguese. He has received awards, including the Human Rights Prize from the *(Fund) for Free Expression* in New York in December, 1985; and the Human Rights International Prize from the *American Bar Association* in August, 1991.

Jean-Jacques Honorat is married, has three children and two grandchildren.

Nerette Nominates Cedras as Commander in Chief

FL1210204991 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1836 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] General Raoul Cedras, commander in chief ad interim of the Haitian Armed Forces, is due to appear today before the Senate of the Republic, after being nominated to fill the post of commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces by Provisional President Joseph Nerette.

Confirmation Hearings Convened

FL140152891 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1040 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] General Raoul Cedras has also addressed the Senate. The senators have initiated discussions to confirm Cedras, the lone Haitian Army general, to the position of commander in chief of the Army for three years.

The general said in a public statement before the start of the closed session: Personally, I have never had any problem with Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. I gave him seven months of genuine cooperation.

Cedras Confirmed

FL1410185491 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] General Raoul Cedras has been confirmed by the Senate as the Army commander in chief. General Cedras will assume this post for three years. The senators of the Republic confirmed the nomination as the head of the Army in a special session on 12 October. We recall that General Cedras was appointed to the post of ad interim commander on 27 July by President Aristide. He held this post until the coup on 30 September. During his Senate hearing on 12 October, General Cedras stated to the press: I did not have anything personal against Father Aristide. I gave him seven months of genuine cooperation. Those statements were reported by the French Press Agency. In a previous statement, General Cedras called President Aristide a dictator apprentice and portrayed him as a president wanting to subjugate the military institution.

Army Calls on Population To Disregard Rumors

FL1410140791 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1045 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Press release issued by the Haitian Army General Staff Secretariat; date not given]

[Text] The General Headquarters calls on the population to disregard the various rumors that ill-intentioned persons inside and outside of the country are spreading by all means in order to create a climate of disarray which

would be favorable to their movement. So, all information that can guide and guarantee the security of citizens in general will be communicated to them through official channels.

Parliamentarians Request Freedom of Speech

FL1210004191 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The Parliamentarian Group for Change and Democracy deplores all the damage done to the press and asks the public authorities to take all necessary measures to protect members of the media while allowing them to freely carry out their mission of informing the populations of the nine geographic departments. This request also includes protecting the premises and equipment used for disseminating information in conformity with the principles of free speech.

Signed by Pierre Simon Georges, president of the information commission at the Chamber of Deputies, and president of the Parliamentarian Group for Change and Democracy.

Freedom of Press Guaranteed

FL1410154991 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1045 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] In an open letter to the president of (COMRAC) [expansion unknown], the provisional government of the Republic of Haiti deplores the damages done to certain radio stations in the capital during the events that resulted in the overthrow of Jean-Bertrand Arisitide. The provisional government reaffirms its steadfast willingness to respect the constitutional guarantees, especially the freedom of the press and has no objection to the normal resumption of various media activities in the country.

Radio Stations 'Off the Air;' Prices Up

FL1210005891 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Although activities have basically resumed in Port-au-Prince, there are still some negative points in the capital's life. Most of the radio stations are still off the air. Many of them were damaged during the events of 29 to 30 September, while others stopped broadcasting under pressure. Among the damaged radio stations, both Radio Cacique and Radio Lumiere lost almost all their equipment.

Another significant factor resulting from last week's events is the increased cost of goods in the capital. Several theories prevail: Either everyone rushed to buy goods during the crisis, leaving a depleted supply in the marketplace; trucks from the provinces were unable to enter the capital during the events of last week; or the sellers have decided to create a shortage.

The real reason for the rising prices, however, is that no authorities have been controlling the market. Priorities should therefore be to guarantee protection to the radio stations and to take measures to control the prices on the market.

Military Warns Against General Strike

FL1410124491 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Leaflets on the ground in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, call for an indefinite general strike beginning today. But Haiti's military is warning against it. Troops loyal to the country's ruling junta also told citizens yesterday to ignore rumors saying that deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide might return. The military says the rumors are being spread by parties interested in destabilizing the country's domestic situation. Soldiers say they will fight the return of Mr. Aristide.

Strike Unsuccessful

FL1510115991 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] A general strike that was called yesterday in Haiti in support of the ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has fizzled out. Some say it was because of fear of an Army crackdown; others say it was because of lack of publicity. Anyway, interim Prime Minister Jean-Jacque Honorat says Mr. Aristide has 45 days to negotiate his return or he will be replaced. Haiti's Constitution requires the interim government to hold elections within 45 days. That provides a de facto deadline for Mr. Aristide's return. However, the military has been sending mixed signals as to whether they would ever allow such a restoration. On Sunday, the Army told citizens basically to forget the idea.

The Haitian ambassador to the United States is accusing the military rulers in Haiti of receiving money from drug smugglers. Ambassador Jean Casimir suggested that this might be one way that the junta will try to circumvent the economic embargo which was imposed by the Organization of American States.

Business Group Wants Negotiations With Aristide

FL1410221591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1136 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] There has been no global reaction to the coup from the private sector. The Association of Haitian Industries [ADIH], however, signed a press release condemning the 30 September coup and asked for a return to constitutional order. Jean-Edouard Baker, president of the association, signed the press release on behalf of the association's stance on the current political crisis.

ADIH believes that a solution to the present crisis is necessarily linked to the restoration of the constitutional order, implying the renunciation of anti-democratic practices and temptations which occurred during the

first months of the now-deposed government by the military. ADIH also denounces the sectarian practices of Jean-Bertrand Aristide's administration.

The ADIH recommends efforts toward negotiation among the national institutions, meaning the executive, presided over by Jean-Bertrand Aristide; the Parliament; the Justice Department; and the Army, headed by General Raoul Cedras, in consultation with civilian society. It is to be noted that this stance by ADIH was first circulated in Port-au-Prince as an unsigned leaflet.

It is also significant that the most influential employers' associations have not agreed upon a common stance on the crisis, especially relating to the economic embargo against the country. The private sector is due to meet with the provisional president today at 5 PM [2100 GMT] at the invitation of Provisional President Joseph Nerette.

Common Position Not Achieved

FL1110172691 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1152 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The nation's main business organization has not managed to adopt a common position on the major political crisis that was triggered by the 30 September military rebellion which overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

We have learned from a source close to the private sector that a resolution proposing President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's unconditional return was not approved by the majority of the business organizations [plural as heard]. In a meeting held on 9 October, the Association of Haitian Industries, which is the representative of the North American subcontracting sector in the country, made proposals for a possible negotiated return of the deposed president, namely Jean-Bertrand Aristide. But these proposals were not approved.

Economic Activities Resume

PA1310135591 Paris AFP in Spanish 2101 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 12 Oct (AFP)—Economic activities returned to normal today, except for the press, while the supporters of the ousted government live in fear of reprisals.

For the first time since the ousting of the elected president, the shops in downtown Port-au-Prince opened, and there are many units of public transportation available, popularly called the "tap-tap."

In Cap Haitien (the second most important city of the country, 260 km north of the capital), the situation is returning to normal.

The private radio stations of the capital city like Radio Haiti Inter and Radio Metropole, as well as Tele Haiti (cable television) have not broadcast their newscasts.

AFP learned that the military patrolled on 11 October looking for the individuals responsible for the Haitian Press Agency, but could not find them.

The followers and officials of the deposed government continue to be anxious. Some of them have been arrested and others have sought refuge in foreign embassies.

According to a report received by AFP, Patrice Cadet was arrested on 11 October by some soldiers and taken to a local garrison. Cadet is the deputy delegate for Petit Goave (68 km southwest of the capital city.)

The same source reported that Macza Metellus, local correspondent for Radio Soleil (the radio station of the bishops); and Gilberto Desroches, from the National Front for Change and Democracy (FNCD), were arrested.

Jean-Jacques Honorat, the new prime minister, must be approved by the senators and deputies on 12 October before he can form his cabinet, which might begin working on 14 October.

Professors Reinstated, Invited to Meeting

FL1410205691 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1900 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] The private secretariat of the provisional president of the Republic of Haiti advises that, by express instruction from the provisional president, all university teachers previously released from duty have been reinstated in their professorships until further notice.

The provisional president takes this opportunity to invite the representatives of the Port-au-Prince University Teachers Association, as well as the other public university teachers, to an important meeting that will take place at the National Palace Monday, 14 October, at 1 PM. During this meeting, questions will be discussed concerning Haiti State University and the current difficult conjuncture.

Education Groups Invited

FL1410153291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1045 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] The private secretariat of the provisional president of the Republic of Haiti advises the prestigious National Confederation of Haitian Teachers [CNEH] and the Port-au-Prince Private School Directors Association [ADEPP] that the provisional president wishes to meet with their representatives at the National Palace today at 1100.

The provisional president hopes that CNEH and ADEPP will send representatives to this important meeting. Questions concerning schools, primary and secondary education in public and private schools, as well as the problems caused by the nation's difficult conjuncture will be debated.

Student Association Invited

FL1410194891 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1045 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] The private secretariat of the provisional president of the Republic of Haiti advises the distinguished National Federation of Haitian Students [FENEH] that the provisional president wishes to meet with the assembly of students' committees of the different faculties, institutes, and university education schools at the National Palace at 1530 today.

The provisional president hopes that FENEH will send representatives to this important meeting. Questions concerning the students, the university, and problems caused by the nation's difficult conjuncture will be debated.

Ambassador Lelong Comments on Cause of Coup

PA1110194691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1201 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Mexico, 11 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the toppled president of Haiti, sought to end the corrupt Duvalierist system and rescue his country from the dictatorship, Haitian Ambassador to Mexico Pierre Lelong said. "During the eight months that Aristide was in the Presidency, he took several measures and initiatives to build a real democracy in Haiti. His political actions caused the discomfort that sparked the military coup," Lelong stated.

The Haitian diplomat lectured today on "the struggle of the Haitian people against the coup" at the Mexican Workers University.

In his lecture, he noted that Aristide's most significant political actions had been to purge the corrupt public administration that had existed in Haiti for over 35 years and had exploited the poor.

He added that "being poor became a way of life for the Haitian people," while the officials of the Duvalierist dictatorship became rich through the mismanagement of the public administration.

During Aristide's time in power, an all-out war was declared on drug trafficking. This caused the discomfort of the Army, which was the one that had benefited the most from this activity, Lelong added.

The Haitian official added that the toppled president's political work had affected many sectors that benefited from the corruption of the dictatorship. Aristide had also waged a struggle against contraband and tax evasion, and had separated the Police and Army Corps, which had boasted of impunity.

Aristide also sought to promote agrarian reform and education reform, because Haiti is a country with a high rate of illiteracy, he noted. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Cristiani Optimistic on Dialogue, Cease-Fire

PA1310195591 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] On the evening of 11 October, President Cristiani said that the government's dialogue commission is optimistic that a cease-fire will be achieved in Mexico City, where the dialogue and negotiation process resumes on 12 October. Nevertheless, he admitted that it is almost certain that the delegations will be unable to discuss all of the topics on the agenda.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] This meeting has been described as being free of time limitations, based on a format of brief recesses. It has been planned as a meeting that will continue until it ends.

[Reporter] Are you aware of the informal [word indistinct] that is being spoken about? Will this be included in the discussion?

[Cristiani] As I have said, a de-escalation may be discussed. I proposed such a discussion to the UN secretary general, but I believe that the issue is to discuss a definitive cease-fire. If agreements were reached in New York, I believe we should insist on fulfilling those agreements. We have not excluded the possibility of discussing some form of de-escalation. [end recording]

Nevertheless, Cristiani totally disagreed with the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] military activities of the past few days, saying that they do not constitute a positive attitude toward the reality of the negotiations.

[Begin Cristiani recording] It is inconsistent to keep repeating that one desires peace and that this situation must end, when the FMLN increases its attacks throughout the country; it is inconsistent because the confidence that may exist will be destroyed. [end recording]

Cristiani said that next year's defense budget has been increased by 15 million colones due to an entry for the Armed Forces rehabilitation center. He said this is an entirely humanitarian endeavor.

Violence Occurs Before Talks

PA1110192791 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1455 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Oct (DPA)—Salvadoran guerrillas dynamited today a telecommunications office near San Salvador, ambushed Army soldiers, and occupied several villages in the northern area of the country. This is particularly important because the talks between the government and the rebels will resume in Mexico City on 12 October.

Military sources reported that urban guerrillas detonated a powerful dynamite charge against a National Administration for Telecomunications office in a neighborhood north of San Salvador; ambushed a military truck near Paraiso, Chalatenango, approximately 58 km north of the capital; and occupied several municipalities including Chalatenango.

The Salvadoran Red Cross told DPA this morning that ambulances were dispatched to Dulce Nombre de Maria, 70 km north of the capital, in an effort to rescue those who were wounded in early clashes between rebels and soldiers.

The guerrillas have stepped up their attacks on military targets, reportedly in response to operations conducted by the Armed Forces in rebel-controlled areas. According to Armed Forces reports, 15 soldiers were killed and 25 wounded this week.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Army still wants to establish a unilateral cease-fire in order to facilitate the negotiations, but the government and particularly the Armed Forces have objected. According to Oscar Santamaria, who heads the official dialogue commission, the government will instead propose an informal cease-fire to scale down the war before establishing a definitive cease-fire.

Talks Commence

PA1210222591 Paris AFP in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Oct (AFP)—A Salvadoran Government spokesman announced that on 12 October the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas began to discuss the Armed Forces, the first topic on the "tight agenda" of the peace negotiations.

The government delegation is headed by Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria, Interior Minister Juan Antonio Martinez Varela, and Deputy Chief of Staff Colonel Mauricio Vargas. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) delegation is represented by Commanders Jorge Shafik Handal and Leonel Gonzalez.

According to the government spokesman, the talks began with Alvaro De Soto, personal representative for the UN Secretary General, meeting with each side. FMLN's Joaquin Villalobos said that "there is sure to be a direct meeting between the delegations, but the talks will be separate until each mission studies the issues on the agenda."

The delegations are supposed to fully discuss the Armed Forces' topic and study the possibility of establishing an "informal truce or something similar that will result in a suspension of hostilities prior to the final end of the clashes," Villalobos said.

This "intensive working session," as the government and the guerrillas have called it, has no preestablished time

limit. According to the New York Agreements, the Armed Forces' topic must be fully discussed. A guerrilla source said "the discussions are nearly complete. We still must establish the guidelines and how to apply them."

The Salvadoran presidency minister said these talks "are taking place in the best atmosphere and there are established ground rules, such as the New York Agreements. However, no date has been set for the end of the first session."

FMLN Commanders Comment

PA1210025791 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Joaquin Villalobos, a commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], said that a cease-fire will be the main point addressed in the next round of negotiations between the Government and the FMLN in Mexico. We will maintain our proposal to end the war now, Commander Villalobos said. He added that the FMLN forces believe the only things worth fighting for are the agreements being attained by the people in the negotiations. He said the other side in the conflict is carrying out intense activities to obstruct the agreements.

Commander Villalobos said progress is being made in the negotiations on the Armed Forces issue but difficult aspects remain.

Meanwhile, FMLN Commander Francisco Jovel said in Costa Rica that even though it was agreed in New York that the government will respect land ownership, the economic and social problems which brought on the conflict have yet to be solved in the areas under FMLN control. Commander Jovel said a number of economic and social problems caused by the government's structural adjustment programs must now be solved. He said such programs have worsened the war's causes. Jovel said it must be agreed upon in the negotiations that the military must be under civilian control. He added that the military men do not resign themselves to losing their great privileges and the economic power they have been accumulating through the war. He said this further complicates finding a political solution to the conflict.

Nicaragua

Government Officials Comment on Disarmament Plan

PA1510011591 Managua Radio Nicaragua in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Oct 91

[News conference given by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo; Government Minister Carlos Hurtado; National Police Chief Rene Vivas; and Major General Joaquin Cuadra, chief of the General Staff of the Sandinist People's Army, at the Presidency's Information and Press Directorate; with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic correspondents—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Vivas]...Antonio Lacayo, we were very concerned to watch the crime rate rising. During the first half of this year, the rate jumped up over 20 percent compared to the same period last year which, in turn, showed an increase compared to 1989. We expect there to have been over 30,000 crimes by December. This figure represents a record, and we must put a stop to it. It was not that the crime rate is rising but that the level of danger is also rising. I am referring to the criminal methods employed: cattle rustling, armed robberies, burglaries, rapes, and homicides with the use of all sorts of firearms, grenades, machine guns, AK-47 rifles, and so forth.

Curbing this trend requires extraordinary effort. So it is within this context, and in compliance with orders from the government and in coordination with the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], that we introduced this plan, which we have been implementing for eight days. We will announce the most important results.

The first result, which we regard as the most important and the one we appreciate the most, concerns prevention. We had an average of 12 cases of cattle rustling a day. Those were 12 registered cases every day, but the figure is most likely to be higher since many people stopped filing complaints. In the past eight days, nobody has filed a complaint for this crime with the country's police units. This is a highly significant indicator of the operation's impact and results.

We had a daily average of approximately six cases of armed robbery, from six to eight cases. Some days we had up to 12 holdups with rifles, pistols, war weapons, often followed by homicides, rape, or injuries. In two days we had three cases, but in the next few days we had from one to two cases or no cases at all. Criminal methods also changed: We no longer have an armed gang of six or seven persons holding up a farm, a house or a bank; instead we see criminals using knives, stealing bicycles or small things. This means the danger level is decreasing. In our opinion, these are the most important results. We have noticed a clear drop in criminal activity, chiefly the most dangerous.

This plan also expedites the work of other government institutions, such as the General Customs Office. We have coordinated efforts with that directorate so that these officials can combat smuggling and customs evasion, taking advantage of this operation set up with the National Police and the Army. We are thinking of making the appropriate coordinated effort with the Institute of Natural Resources. We have not been able to do so yet, but the idea is to try to control illegal lumber activities and other aspects of interest to that government office.

Of course, this operation is also aimed at disarming civilians, since the spread of firearms in civilian hands is behind the increased number of incidents, which the people know all about because the news media report them every day. The amounts of weapons seized, what

page? Here it is. These are the figures. We searched 75,362 vehicles, which was the chief method employed.

Every day we searched an average of 1000 to 1200 vehicles on roads, highways, and checkpoints. We found and seized 571 illegally carried weapons; 198 war weapons, including ones like the RPG-7 rocket launcher we have here; 339 short-range weapons whose holders had no permit; and 34 hunting weapons without appropriate permits. We seized 12,147 missiles, most of them ammunition for rifles and short-range weapons. In addition, we seized 34 explosive devices, such as grenades and the like, and war materiel of all sorts, like (?vests), cartridge clips, and so forth. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Go ahead, Mr. Filadelfo Aleman.

[Aleman] My question is addressed to Major General Cuadra. We would like to know the progress of the operation in northern and eastern Nicaragua with regard to the persecution of the recontras?

[Cuadra] As you all know, a decision was made to begin a military operation in Region Five in northern Nicaragua. This military operation was carried out on 9 and 10 October. When the recontras realized that the situation was very grave, became aware of the consequences of their action, and saw our response—the military operation—they sent a letter to the president categorically stating that they would turn over their weapons. However, they first admitted their mistake and asked the president for a few days in which to return their weapons.

This led us to decide to establish a checkpoint in the area of La Pinuela, where the units that were participating in the operation had been concentrated. This is part of this national operation explained by Commander Vivas. We expect that in the next few days, with the support of the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] and the OAS, these people will proceed to regroup the weapons and return them to the Army.

Those directly involved in the action were a man known as Rojito and another known as Matizon. They are the two main leaders of approximately 40 recontras. They claim that their top authority is their general staff, headed by Dimas [Francisco Baldivia]; Tigrillo [Encarnacion Valdivia]; Bigote de Oro [Alcides Rodriguez]; and other individuals with whom the government, through Minister Hurtado, has been holding a dialogue. This general staff was the one that addressed the letter to the president.

[Moderator] Dora Liza, go ahead.

[Dora Liza] Yes. Gen. Cuadra, there were, however, clashes in the Ayote area, because we were there on 9 and 10 October. We not only heard the fighting; we saw EPS [Sandinist People's Army] helicopters carrying stretchers and first aid equipment. What kind of combat went on? Were there any EPS, police, or recontra casualties?

[Cuadra] There was no fighting. The recontras abandoned their positions and fled when they saw the seriousness of the actions and the operation underway. As part of the operation and as a preventive measure, it was logical for us to use helicopters in case we had to transfer the wounded. However, there were no casualties because there was no clash with these groups that are currently in the mountainous area north of La Pinuela. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Pedro Riocejo.

[Riocejo] Minister Lacayo, at this news conference on disarmament, I would like to ask you a question on the rearmament. You previously told reporters that there was a possibility that Nicaraguans residing in Miami were sending supplies to the recontras. On another occasion, a group of correspondents asked Encarnacion Valdivia, El Tigrillo, and members of what is currently known as the [recontra] general staff about this. They denied it, saying that they had cached enough weapons since 1987 to arm a large number of people. A few days later, however, Franklin [Israel Galeano Cornejo] completely denied the existence of these caches. In addition, reporters have contacted witnesses in the area who mentioned strange flights by light airplanes and private helicopters from Honduras. I would like to know if the government can say anything about the introduction of new arms into the country now that there is this campaign to disarm those who already have them?

[Lacayo] We do not rule out the possibility. However, we do not yet have proven facts. We have contacted the Honduran Government. In fact, during President Chamorro's trip to that country, we told President Callejas about this possibility. He obviously offered the full support of his government in order to end any gunrunning we could detect. He said that they were going to look into the matter, because Central America is on its way to pacification, especially now that the Salvadoran guerrillas and government have signed the agreements in New York. We are going in that direction. No one in Central America wants to take a step back and return to the era of irregular forces. Thus, I repeat: We have no proven facts, but we do not rule out that possibility.

[Moderator] Ernesto Aburto of Barricada.

[Aburto] Thank you. I have a couple of questions for Mr. Lacayo. Can you confirm if this operation will continue until December with the same intensity of the first week? I recall that Sandinism, when it began its government in 1979, had ambitious development projects, many of which had to be dismantled because of the beginning of the war and the worsening of the conflict. I would like to know what the government expectations are if the country's reconciliation and internal stability project fails? If there is no stability by December, if we continue with these military and political tensions, do you think that the government's development projects, with foreign credits, will fail or be greatly deteriorated?

[Lacayo] The disarmament and crime prevention plan will continue as long as government authorities feel it is necessary. I must explain that this institutional disarmament plan, explained by Commander Vivas, is a parallel but different effort from that of the national and departmental security commissions. Within this plan, members of various sectors in the country join with government officials in an effort to carry out the disarmament plan in their departments and regions. This plan will continue as long as necessary. This operation is parallel to this, but is different and is carried out at an institutional level. The disarmament must be sought from every possible angle. Thus, the operation will continue as long as we continue to seize 30 to 40 weapons a day, especially the sort of weapons you see here. This just cannot be. Nicaraguans cannot continue to walk around with a briefcase or a basket with these types of devices that can endanger the lives of anyone at anytime.

Answering your second question, if national reconciliation is not fully achieved in December, then we will have to continue to struggle for it until it enters the hearts of those who do not believe in it; until those who believe in it can convince the unbelieving—the hardened and vengeful individuals—that this is the only path on which this country has to move forward.

The government's plans for economic growth will obviously not fail. They can, however, be affected by actions that go against the country's stability. Therefore, if what we want is to create jobs and if the recontras' demands include a job or an opportunity in life, the best thing we can do as a country, a nation, or a society is to seek quickly the growth of our economy so that we can all have a job with which to face life.

In this regard, we must support the government efforts. We must promote the national reconciliation process, a process of understanding among all, and a process of peaceful coexistence so that we can draw the best benefit possible from these credits and international cooperation that is being sent to Nicaragua, a cooperation precisely sent to us because our country achieved peace, consolidated its democracy, and is promoting this process of reconciliation.

In other words, any Nicaraguan going against a reconciliation is going against the possibility of obtaining economic aid. It must be clearly stated here that we are not getting economic aid just because of our pretty face. We are getting it because the world is pleased to see how we have gone from a hard war—as we all know it was—to a reconciliation process. This is why the attention of the world is on us. This is the reason for an increasingly favorable reaction toward the Nicaraguan people.

[Moderator] Rafael Baez.

[Baez] My question is for Minister Hurtado [words indistinct] and the armed Sandinist guardsmen the one who create trouble [words indistinct] Sandinists who tried to seize Bolivar Avenue. They went to the Presidency to protest [words indistinct] being vulgar, burning tires, throwing bombs [words indistinct] Bolivar Avenue. Yesterday, some lazy teachers tried to seize the Presidency, harassed a guardsman and beat up several policemen. Why does this government permit these shameful acts? Back in Sandinist times [words indistinct]. Why does the government permit this vandalism? [words indistinct].

[Hurtado] Well, you mentioned it. Yesterday, there was this incident where several policemen were beaten. However, the basis of your question is that there is a substantive difference now. People protest, and I do not know why you should be surprised that people protest. If we compare it with last year, these types of protests—which go on everywhere in the world—are becoming more civilized. We are certain that protests next year will be much more peaceful than those of this year.

[Moderator] The gentleman from REUTER.

[Unidentified REUTER correspondent] My question is for Maj. Gen. Cuadra. I want to know if this operation in Region Five is an isolated response to a particular incident, or if it is a sign of a change in the Army stand with regard to the recontras. Are we going to see more actions, more operations in areas other than northern and eastern Nicaragua, in an effort to take a more aggressive stand against the armed groups? Will these operations be extended?

[Cuadra] It must be stated very clearly and categorically that the offensive military action in Region Five in recent days does not mean that there is a change in the Army policy to support government efforts to solve this type of conflict through a dialogue or through peaceful means. The Army will continue to back the government position. This has been clearly stated.

We have not seen—in Regions One and Six, where this type of conflict occurs—situations that would lead to making a change in the Army stand, a stand that is reflected in its miltiary actions.

A clear message was also sent about certain limits to this policy of support to the government dialogue efforts. Some actions have been taken that are completely beyond the framework of the way the government had been handling the situation with these groups. The recontras heard the message loud and clear. Their reaction was the letter they sent, a letter to which I have already referred. Therefore, there has been no changes in the military policy for the solution of these problems. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] There was talk that approximately 200 recontras arrived in the town. You spoke of 40. They had, however, disarmed about 34 troops. Could you explain this? In addition, there was [words indistinct] and there was no access to that town. There was a lot of military activity there. Could you further explain about the operation [words indistinct]? The figures do not match.

[Cuadra] There was a gathering of Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] members who were to meet with the CIAV. They were also to meet with some mayors and deputies from Region Five. This is why there were 200 members. This does not mean that all 200 of them were armed or that they were recontras. Most of them were civilians, individuals who were demobilized RN members and were to hold activities with international organizations. They were also to have political contact with some mayors and deputies from Region Five.

Approximately 40 individuals were armed and fully identified as members of the recontras. The operation continued on 10 October. It was obviously a military operation with all the implications that has, and that was the reason for the traffic jam on that road. The situation is back to normal there, however; yes, there are jams, but they are a result of the national disarmament and crime prevention campaign.

[Moderator] Any more questions?

[Goche] I am Evelyn Goche from Salpress. I have a question for Lacayo. Taking into account that there were casualties in the first clash between the recontras and the recompas and that the first EPS operation against the recontras has been carried out leads me to believe that the government's dialogue policy is not yielding the expected results. On the contrary, it seems that confrontation and aggressiveness have increased. I think that these groups are not going to suspend their activities. Aside from their social demands, they have more profound convictions: the recontras and the sectors that support them do not want to accept the idea of sharing a new society with the Sandinists. Thus, I insist on asking: how do you view this? Does it mean that a military solution for this problem will be imposed?

[Lacayo] I disagree with you. I think that there has been a great success. For 10 years, we lived in a society in which we were literally killing one another with the most sophisticated weapons known in Latin America; and then, for two years, we have been coexisting with fewer incidents than they have in Guatemala. This is a success. It is a success of the Nicaraguan people. There are obviously deaths we deplore. If you go back in history, however, there was more violence after the U.S. Civil War than we have here. After World War II, there was more violence in any of the eastern European countries than we have here.

In fact, countries that have not gone through a war like ours have more violence than we have here. What happens is that Nicaraguans for some reason want greater goals, and that is good. Every time someone dies, we become alarmed. If you read a newspaper in countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, or Peru, however, you will see what violence truly means. It is good for Nicaraguans to wish to live better than that. This is part of the Nicaraguan spirit: we want to be superior. Let us hope that we achieve that. We must not exaggerate tragedies, however, because they give the people a feeling of failure.

Our plan for reconciliation has been a true success of the Nicaraguan people. There are people who resort to weapons; there are weapons everywhere. There are also people who know how to handle them perfectly well, on both the recontras and recompas [former Sandinist servicemen who have grouped together to face the contras] sides. These were guys who spent years in the Army or as contras. That is all that some of them know how to do.

Yesterday, I spent five or six hours meeting with former EPS members. Many of them told me: This is all we know how to do; we joined the Army when we turned 16, and we are now 25 or 26 years old. That is all they know how to do, and they are always in trouble. They keep their weapons within an arm's reach. It is almost impossible to prevent them from using weapons.

But this does not mean that reconciliation failed in Nicaragua. On the contrary, I feel that a large majority [pauses] we talk about the recontras, but they do not amount to more than 2 percent of the demobilized troops. Why don't we talk about the other 98 percent who are harvesting beans? Why don't the media report on the recontras who are working and living in peace? Why is it that there is only talk about the 2 percent who decided to take up the weapons again? With regard to the recontras, why is it that the media do not talk about what the demobilized contras and the EPS veterans are doing? Many of them have new jobs. A report on that would be interesting. There is only talk of those who returned to the weapons.

We do not realize that the problems we have are being exaggerated to the point that they have become overwhelming. The people want to live in peace, and the government has the obligation to continue promoting disarmament, reconciliation, and peaceful coexistence. This operation is merely an element in that direction. It is aimed at preventing weapons from circulating freely, as was occurring last month. This is not the crux of the disarmament. The crux of the disarmament are the departmental disarmament commissions that include representatives from the contras, the Sandinist National Liberation Front, producers, the church, and government authorities making an effort to increase trust among Nicaraguans so that the people voluntarily will say: I am returning my weapon because the other guy is returning his.

I feel that the media have the obligation to help promote this. Your mere presence here is a sign that you are interested in this, and that you are helping. Therefore, I thank you.

Hurtado Installs Security Commissions

PA1410143991 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Oct 91 p 5

[Text] Esteli—Government Minister Carlos Hurtado installed on 10 October the Security Commissions in

Nueva Segovia, Madriz, and Esteli Departments that are comprised of representatives from various organizations, political parties, and the church.

During the official ceremony that took place in Esteli, Hurtado admitted the need for reestablishing authority throughout the country inasmuch as he feels that there is a vacuum that needs to be filled. At the same time, he called upon all sectors to carry out joint efforts to resolve the security problems.

He said that the high rate of unemployment and poverty that the people are experiencing in places affected by the war have led to an increase in crime. To resolve these problems, the government will assign priority to its assistance programs in Regions One, Five, and Six.

The Commission of Security and Disarmament was formed in Esteli by representatives of the Sandinist National Liberation Front; the National Opposition Unity; the Catholic Church; the Office of the Attorney General; the Association of Agricultural Workers; the National Resistance; coffee growers; cattle ranchers; the city mayor; the Chamber of Commerce; the Sandinist People's Army; and the police. It will be presided over by the regional delegate of the governor's office, Crisantos Castillo.

Hurtado announced that a special disarmament brigade, consisting of 150 men, will be formed and its main function will be to work jointly with the security commissions in promoting disarmament among civilians, but not among rebel groups with whom the government will maintain negotiations.

Parallel to the activities involved in installing the National Security Commission, workers from various areas staged a demonstration in front of the city mayor's office and demanded that Hurtado release the three workers from the National Enterprise for Staple Foods [ENABAS]; approve a salary increase for public health and education workers; and privatize ENABAS.

After the workers concluded negotiations with Hurtado, the police released Roger Peralta Marchena, Santos Castillo Rugama, and Raul Masis Orozco, who had been accused of damaging property.

Present at the negotiations with the workers were Lucio Jimenez, top leader of the National Workers Front, who participated in the march despite the heavy rain. In the end, he and the other workers said that they were very happy with having obtained a victory.

Panama

Diplomatic, Commercial Ties With Haiti Severed

PA1510011091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2348 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Panama City, 14 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Government announced on 14 October that it had closed its embassy in Haiti and it banned all commercial activities with that country, including the flagging of Haitian ships in its Merchant Marine. It also ordered the freezing of funds and assets, which the island maintains in Panamanian territory.

"Panama only recognizes the constitutional government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide," Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino said when announcing the decision not to maintain relations with the regime of Magistrate Joseph Nerette.

Nerette replaced Aristide, who was overthrown by military officers on 29 September, and his government is facing severe international isolation imposed by the OAS.

Panama will not allow the entrance of Haitian products and will not allow the flagging of Haitian ships, "except for humanitarian reasons," Mulino said.

The Panamanian Merchant Marine fleet is second in the world only to Liberia.

Endara Says Police Chief To Remain at Post

PA1510132891 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] National Police Chief Gonzalo Menendez Franco will not be dismissed from his post, President Guillermo Endara said on 13 October upon his return from New York after participating in the 45th session of the UN General Assembly.

[Begin Endara recording] Gonzalo Menendez Franco violated the Constitution and he violated the law. He violated Article 15 of Cabinet Decree No. 38. However, the law does not force the president to dismiss him. His dismissal is just one of my options. I could have asked Gonzalo Menendez Franco to resign, but he has achieved much to his credit in his past struggles. He has done very much for the institution. He has really made the institution provide the services expected by citizens. He has done a very efficient job. Therefore, I decided—it is my decision and I accept that historic and political responsibility—to give him another chance; and to give him that chance, I asked him to resign from the Arnulfista Party and to refrain from party activities and from making political statements, which he has done. [end recording]

The president rejected the censure proposed by the Legislative Assembly against Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier on 7 October.

[Begin Endara recording] Legally speaking, I do not believe we can make heads or tails of the censure. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem Comments on Economy, Other Topics

PY1110175691 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0204 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Interview by President Carlos Menem with anchorman Mariano Grondona during "Hora Clave" television program—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Grondona] when one studies the figures, one realizes that the economic and political situation in Argentina is good: On 8 September, 42 percent of the people voted for the Justicialist Party, PJ, and another 33 percent voted for moderate candidates who, deep inside, support the economic policy. Thus, 75 percent of Argentines basically support the economic program. Figures also show that inflation has dropped.

The abstract part of our lives is, therefore, doing well. More definite problems, however, hit us everyday. I was observing the large number of (?Sierra Grande) workers.... [changes thought] Why should they be punished for something irrational that someone did so many years ago? Why should the San Nicolas' workers be punished because someone overestimated the design of the plant and caused (?excessive) burdens? People are suffering and this causes a conflict: My mind says that, basically, things are well and my heart and my feelings make me suffer for the people. Which of the two is correct?

[Menem] I agree. The president of the Argentine Republic is not insensitive. He is not indifferent to problems. Within our possibilities, we are trying to solve these dramas. Why should we punish the common citizen just because the administration of Argentine assets is, and has been for many years, extremely bad and fraudulent, and causes the problems we know so well? Why should teachers, policemen, military men, and workers have to put up with aberrant deficits of some state-owned companies, including Hipasam. The problems of Somisa [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association] and of the state railway company—which loses 1 billion a year [currency not specified]—are not the workers' fault. It is not the Argentines' fault that these nuclei of corruption have created the dramatic situation being experienced by the workers. If we do not end this situation, Argentina will fall to pieces. Argentina will experience the same problems that are being experienced in other parts of the world, including Peru and other Latin American countries.

This is why we are seriously and responsibly trying to administer the public properties that have been entrusted to us by the people. This is why we are trying to end a series of irregular situations and destroy the nuclei of corruption and definitively allow the Argentine people to begin enjoying the fruits of the their labor in addition to the resources with which God has blessed this nation, because not many other nations have received so much.

I insist that despite extremely bad and fraudulent administrations, Argentina is not an underdeveloped nation. It is an under-administered nation. This is why we are now in this situation.

If you analyze the Somisa issue, you will find out that the situation is really disastrous: How has Somisa been administered? Through innumerous irregular transactions. It has made a few people wealthy while the interests of most of the plant workers are being harmed. How have other state assets been administered? Analyzing all that, we have reached the conclusion that if we did not act as we are acting now, there would be no solution for Argentina.

[Grondona] What is your opinion about readjustments, Mr. President? You participated in the discussions, can you tell us if the social cost has been foreseen?

[Menem] Of course.

[Grondona] Did you plan a safety net for that? The government first implemented in Argentina the National Food Program, PAN, and then Solidarity Bonds. Neither of the two were effective.

[Menem] How long did the Solidarity Bonds last? Two months? The PAN lasted five years. What problem did it solve? It was a sort of permanent charity and, in addition, it was manipulated politically. Billions of dollars were spent in the PAN without solving anything. This is why we chose this solution, which is much better. We will make the economic and financial situation of the Argentine Republic more real so that we can achieve the only goals that will make possible the recovery of Argentina for the Argentine people: work and production. [passage omitted]

Alfonsin Not To Seek Reelection to Committee

PY1110205491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1725 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Oct (TELAM)—In a long letter he released before traveling to Spain, former President Raul Alfonsin announced today that he will not run for reelection as head of the Radical Party National Committee.

In his letter, which was made known today, Alfonsin said: "I have decided not to run for president of the National Committee of the Radical Civic Union," despite the fact that he has the necessary support for winning the party election scheduled for November.

He said: "I am sure that I will be more useful if I promote the creation of a movement, not necessarily for electoral purposes, with the objective of preserving the principles of social democracy that always have inspired Radical Party efforts."